

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-25. (cancelled)

26. (original) An optical film comprising:

a transparent film having an average in-plane retardation not larger than 30 nm;

an adhesive layer provided on one surface of said transparent film, said adhesive layer having a refractive index different by 0.12 or less from a refractive index of a layer of said one surface of said transparent film; and

a repetitive prismatic structure provided on the other surface of said transparent film, said repetitive prismatic structure having optical path changing slopes aligned in a substantially constant direction at an inclination angle in a range of from 35 to 48 degrees with respect to a plane of said transparent film.

27. (original) An optical film according to claim 26,

wherein said optical path changing slopes are constituted by at least two kinds of slopes in which one kind of slopes aligned in a substantially constant direction serve as a reference

while the other kind of slopes are aligned substantially in a direction which is opposite to said one kind of slopes; and

wherein said adhesive layer is covered with a strip sheet.

28. (original) An optical film according to claim 26, wherein said transparent film has an average thicknesswise retardation of not larger than 50 nm.

29. (original) An optical film according to claim 26, wherein said transparent film has an average in-plane retardation of not larger than 20 nm and an average thicknesswise retardation of not larger than 30 nm.

30. (original) An optical film according to claim 26, wherein said inclination angle of each of said optical path changing slopes with respect to said film plane is in a range of from 38 to 45 degrees.

31. (original) An optical film according to claim 26, wherein said optical path changing slopes are formed based on a structure of grooves each shaped substantially like an isosceles triangle or any other triangle in section.

32. (original) An optical film according to claim 26, wherein said optical path changing slopes are formed based on a structure of grooves or protrusions each shaped substantially like a tetragon or a pentagon in section.

33. (currently amended) An optical film according to claim 26, wherein a projected area, onto said film plane, of flat surfaces each having an inclination angle of not larger than 5 degrees with respect to said film plane is not smaller than 10 times as large as a projected area, onto said film plane, of ~~slopes each having an inclination angle of not smaller than 35 degrees with respect to said film plane~~ said optical path changing slopes.

34. (currently amended) An optical film according to claim 26, wherein said prismatic structure includes

optical path changing slopes each having an inclination angle in a range of from 38 to 45 degrees with respect to said film plane, and

flat surfaces each having an inclination angle of not larger than 5 degrees with respect to said film plane;

wherein a projected width of each of said flat surfaces onto said film plane is not smaller than 10 times as large as a projected width of each of said optical path changing slopes onto said film plane; and

wherein said prismatic structure is formed into continuous grooves, each of ~~which is~~said continuous grooves being shaped substantially like a triangle in section, and each of ~~which is~~said continuous grooves being extended from one end of said film to the other end thereof.

35. (currently amended) An optical film according to claim 26,
wherein said prismatic structure having optical path changing slopes is formed into discontinuous grooves each shaped substantially like a polygon ~~such as a triangle, a tetragon, a pentagon~~ in cross-section;

wherein a length of each of said discontinuous grooves is not smaller than five times as large as a depth of each of said discontinuous grooves;

wherein said optical path changing slopes are formed in a direction of the length of said grooves at an inclination angle in a range of from 38 to 45 degrees with respect to said film plane; and

wherein a projected area of said discontinuous grooves onto an area of said film plane is not larger than 10%.

36. (original) An optical film according to claim 26, wherein a reflection layer is disposed closely on a surface of said film on which said prismatic structure having said optical path changing slopes is formed.

37. (original) An optical film according to claim 26, wherein ridgelines of said optical path changing slopes are parallel to or inclined within an angle range of ± 30 degrees with respect to one side of said transparent film.

38. (original) An optical film according to claim 26, wherein said adhesive layer is of a light diffusion type.

39. (new): An optical film according to claim 26, further comprising, in addition to said optical path changing slopes, steep slopes, each having an inclination angle of not smaller than 35 degrees with respect to said film plane;

wherein a projected area, onto said film plane, of flat surfaces, each having an inclination angle of 5 degrees or less with respect to said film plane, is greater than or equal to 10 times as large as a projected area, onto said film plane, of said steep slopes, each having an inclination angle of not smaller than 35 degrees with respect to said film plane.